



communication channels between EFLM and the IVD industry. Subsequently, the proposal was presented to the EFLM General Meeting, the governing body of EFLM, which convened in an extraordinary meeting on September 7, 2023. 35 Full National Society Members and 3 Affiliate National Society Members (these latter ones with an observer status) were present at the extraordinary General Meeting. A unanimous and affirmative vote was cast in favor of incorporating this new Corporate membership status into EFLM and amending the EFLM Articles of Association to accommodate the necessary changes.

On behalf of EFLM Executive Board, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the EFLM National Societies for their immense interest, support and active engagement in reaching this decision.

What benefits can companies expect to receive by becoming Corporate Members of EFLM?

- Being directly involved with the European leading organization promoting contributions to laboratory medicine in modern health care.
- EFLM membership is very helpful for companies to enhance and promote the value provided by them and having excellent access to a variety of resources and target audiences.
- Being able to delegate Consultant members to the EFLM Functional Units (excluding Executive Board) and to influence decision making processes and to strengthen communication and collaboration between IVD industry and laboratory professionals.
- Receiving all documents, publications, and announcements of the EFLM.
- Priority will be given to the EFLM Corporate members to sponsor awards conferences, satellite symposia, webinars and various educational activities thus enabling high visibility of companies to an ideal target audience.
- Being able to use the EFLM logo to identify the company as an EFLM Corporate Member.
- Having access to numerous promotional opportunities.
- Receiving a 20 % discount on exhibition fees and a premium location on the exhibition floor at the EuroMedLab Congresses as a Corporate member of both IFCC and EFLM.
- Receiving a 25 % discount on fees for advertising in the EFLM eNewsletter.

units, Tomris Ozben, Chair of the EFLM Task Force Green and Sustainable Laboratories, presents four simple actions to be more sustainable and green. Tara Rolić, Chair of the EFLM Task Group European Laboratory Day, invites us all to celebrate the 2nd EU LabDay on the 5th of November, 2023. Evgenija Homsak, Chair of the EFLM Profession Committee, draws our attention to the EFLM Syllabus Course enumerating its various modules. Under the EFLMLabX corner, Karina-Alexandra Cojocaru from Romania presents her EFLMLab X report. Miron Sopić, Chair of the EFLM Task Group Young Scientists, invites young scientists to join the group and delineates its various perks. Tara Rolić, Member of the EFLM Communication Committee and Kamil Taha Uçar, Member of the EFLM Task Group – Young Scientists provide us with an abbreviated summary of recent EFLM publications with their not to be missed signature infographics. Tara Rolić, Member of the EFLM Communication Committee, summarizes recent past EFLM webinars, which can be replayed if you happened to have missed them. Silvia Cattaneo from the EFLM Office announces the upcoming CELME 2023 symposium in Prague. Aleš Kvasnička, Member of the EFLM Communication Committee draws your attention to quite a few upcoming EFLM webinars. Under its regular column, the IFCC corner presents global perspectives in Laboratory Medicine. The Calendar of Events lists all major happenings in the field of Laboratory Medicine in Europe.

EFLM has initiated a recruitment campaign for the IVD companies and related entities. Those wishing to become part of this initiative can ensure their inclusion by contacting the EFLM Office at eflm@eflm.eu through Silvia and Terry.



VACANCIES IN EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

Vacancies in functional units under the EFLM Committees

Reported by Silvia Terragni, EFLM Office

EFLM Full National Society Members are invited to send nominations for the following open positions:

WG "Test Evaluation" (WG-TE) – Deadline to apply 22 October

- 1 Full Member

WG "Ethics" (WG-E) – Deadline to apply 31 October

- 3 Full Members and 1 Young Scientist Full Member (≤ 35 years of age at the time of appointment)

Click on the above positions to know more about the requirements and the evaluation's procedure. The term of office will be for 2 years (Jan 2024 - Dec 2025). The position could be renewable for other two more terms if the work for the Group is deemed essential at that time. The work is mainly conducted by e-mail and teleconferencing, the WG usually meets once per year.

Procedure for applications: each National Societies Full Member of EFLM and in good standing with the membership fee can submit one nomination using the form circulated to the National Society's representatives to be sent back to silvia.terragni@eflm.eu.

A brief plan of the applicant's contribution to the aims and objectives of the relevant Working Group must be included in the form. Candidates must be officially recommended by their National Society through a formal letter of support.

Applicants who are not selected as full members may be eligible for corresponding membership.

COFFEE WITH THE EFLM PRESIDENT



Dear EFLM colleagues and friends,

In the October issue of the EFLM EuroLabNews, I would like to present you the interviews with distinguished EFLM National Society Representative as well as National Society Presidents. Please allow me to introduce you: Katarzyna Fischer, Katell Peoc'h and Shemi Veseli. I am grateful for their substantial contribution to the EFLM and mission that make EFLM great today and I sincerely must thank for the time set aside to share their experiences, thoughts and opinions about EFLM and laboratory medicine profession. I hope you will enjoy reading these interviews with our esteemed colleagues and get to know them and their society better.

Tomris Ozben
EFLM President



Coffee with Katarzyna Fischer, National Society Representative of the Polish Society for Laboratory Diagnostics (PSLD)

Could you briefly introduce your society? When was it founded, who can become a member, activities of your society, what has been done so far and future activities, projects, plans?



The Polish Society for Laboratory Diagnostics (PSLD) was founded in 1964 and originated from the Section of Medical Analytics of the Polish Medical Society established in 1962. The main goals of PSLD are dissemination of scientific achievements in the field of laboratory medicine, improvement of the professional and scientific qualifications of its members, cooperation in the training of professional laboratory diagnostics workers

and participation in the organization of laboratory diagnostics in the health care system in Poland.

The Society organizes scientific meetings and conferences, courses and lectures, workshops and presentations of laboratory equipment, conducts competitions and awards for scientific achievements, and conducts publishing activities e.g. editing and publishing The Journal of Laboratory Diagnostics. Additionally, every four years there is organized the congress of PSLD which is accompanied by the election of The President and the Executive Board Members. It is also the greatest event in the field of laboratory medicine in Poland gathering the majority of members from all over the country and guest lecturers from abroad. Moreover, along with scientific session there are arranged workshops initiated by diagnostic companies, so this is an excellent opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences by medical professionals. The last congress in 2022 held in Kielce hosted the President Elect of EFLM Professor Mario Plebani. Members of PSLD next year will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the foundation of The Society and the special conference is planned in September. Together with scientific sessions there will be organized meetings dedicated to commemorating and honoring former Presidents and Members as well as other people involved in the development of The Society.



Participants of the one of our conferences organized by the Szczecin branch of PSLD

The members of the Society are people with education providing the basis for professional work or scientific activity in the field of laboratory medicine. Medical analytics technicians who are members of the PSLD can create technicians' circles. In addition to ordinary members, the Society brings together supporting members and confers the dignity of an honorary member. The Society has approximately 1,000 members in 17 branches. PSLD tightly cooperates with other societies in the field of medicine, with the National Chamber of Laboratory Diagnosticians (NCLD), the professional and government bodies in the area of health care, education and science. Which is of the great importance the Society also closely collaborates with the faculty of laboratory medicine students' organizations that provides an opportunity to get opinions, questions and needs directly from the academic community. PSLD representatives actively cooperate with EFLM and IFCC being members of different working groups. In addition, PSLD very actively participates in health care and medical education systems regulation in the country initiating and giving opinions on legal acts and other documents.

What are your suggestions for better education? Is the current education in your country fit for the purpose? Do you have a core curriculum for the training of medical biochemistry professionals?

Laboratory medicine activities in our country are performed by laboratory diagnosticians. The education of medical staff in this area is provided by the fields of medical analytics/laboratory medicine organized at the faculties of pharmacy at medical universities. These are master's studies, the educational program is consistent with European guidelines. Postgraduate education for laboratory diagnosticians includes four years of specialized education in many areas: medical cytology, epidemiology, laboratory medical diagnostics, laboratory medical genetics, laboratory forensic genetics, laboratory medical hematology, laboratory medical immunology, laboratory medical parasitology, laboratory medical toxicology, laboratory forensic toxicology, laboratory medical transfusiology, medical microbiology, public health. PSLD very actively collaborates with other scientific medical societies in creating recommendations and algorithms for many areas of clinical and laboratory medicine. There are also working groups within the society that develop guidelines in various areas of laboratory medicine, which are later published in The Journal of Laboratory Diagnostics in order to reach as many laboratory diagnosticians as possible. The NCLD, together with specialists in various fields of medicine, also develops detailed recommendations, which are sent to all laboratories in Poland and published on the NCLD website.



Me with students after one of the conferences from the series' "Progress in diagnosis of autoimmune diseases"



Before the conference – part of the IVD producers exhibition

In what direction do you see the laboratory medicine heading? What do you think for the position of the laboratory specialist to increase their visibility within the healthcare system? What challenges do you and your colleagues face?

The healthcare is a very complex area and needs a tight cooperation between laboratory medicine specialists, clinicians and IVD representatives to face the current challenges and trends like personalized medicine, predictive analysis, telemedicine, technological development in medical area etc. Laboratory diagnostics seems to be one of the most dynamically developing field of medicine. Laboratory medicine specialists are aware of their significant role in patients' management from diagnosis, through monitoring to prognosis and prevention as about 80% of clinical decisions are made on the basis of laboratory results. All these issues are reflected in the strong awareness of the need to improve qualifications, introduce new methods and conduct clinical-laboratory dialogue. In Poland many solutions and initiatives have been made in the past few years. The new law introduced in 2022 very strictly regulates all the educational aspects, standards for laboratories and professional requirements for lab's managers and staff. Currently, very important for PSLD and NCLD is an implementation of a laboratory consultation made by diagnosticians to underline their competency, knowledge and experience. It will also be very important to make them equal partners of clinicians in the diagnosis process and more visible in the health care system.

Do you think medical biochemistry professionals are ready for the emerging technologies such as Digitalization, Laboratory Diagnostic Algorithms, AI, ML, Integrative Diagnostics, Big Data? Do you believe in Partnership model for efficient integration and adoption of emerging technologies and innovations?

Undoubtedly, this is the future of laboratory medicine. Automation, digitalization and new technologies have already entered medical laboratories. And this is an ongoing process. However, I do not think that every diagnostician is well prepared to these activities. It needs an integration of educational and managing processes, technical background, law decisions and partnership model to prepare good basis to such solutions in laboratory medicine.

Do you think your society members participate and/or contribute enough to EFLM activities? Do they know the advantages to be EFLM Academy membership, for example, the unique educational resource "Syllabus course", free attendance to the recently held 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference, its sessions were recorded and are available for one year?

I personally do my best to introduce all the EFLM activities to PSLD members via direct meetings, mails, website or social media. So all the information are published immediately. In addition, I personally edit the EFLM corner in the Journal of Laboratory Diagnostics. Thus the EFLM news are popularized on an ongoing basis. The previous Executive Board left the decision to access EFLM Academy as a individual choice of PSLD members. However, I am in touch with EFLM representatives involved in this initiative and hope for some general solutions for our society in the near future.

What do you think about the ongoing and recent EFLM activities/initiatives? Do you have suggestions to increase communication and cooperation with EFLM? What you like and dislike about EFLM

I found EFLM a very active organization with many helpful and inspiring initiatives which might be implemented in every day practice or included in the educational process. Wide offer of trainings, professional support, opportunities for young scientists etc. all these initiatives bring EFLM closer to laboratory medicine professionals. Especially the last decision about new status for Corporate was bold and very needed choice supported by all member societies present at the meeting.

Some Personal questions...Please introduce yourself with a few sentences.



Paragliding in Turkey

My name is Katarzyna Fischer and currently I am holding the positions of the Chair of Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at Clinical Hospital No. 1 and the Chair of the Individual Laboratory for Rheumatologic Diagnostics at Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin, Poland. I am a member of Executive Board of PSLD and I am holding the National Representative in EFLM position. I also am a member of the Board of the National Chamber of Laboratory

Diagnosticians. I completed my PhD thesis in 2008 at Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin. Also in 2008 I became the specialist in laboratory medical diagnostics. I am involved in many initiatives locally and internationally:

- Member of European Consensus Finding Study Group on Laboratory Investigations in Rheumatology (European League Against Rheumatism),
- EULAR Task Force Member: EULAR recommendations for the use and interpretation of laboratory diagnostic tests for the management of systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases,
- Member of European Autoimmunity Standardization Initiative,
- Member of EFLM WG "Postanalytical phase",
- Member of the experts' group dedicated to rare diseases diagnosis at The Ministry of Health,
- Member of an experts' group at The Ministry of Health dedicated to an elaboration of the specialization program in laboratory medical immunology,
- Member of an experts' group of Practical Medicine portal.

My didactic activity covers classes with students of the following fields: medicine, dentistry, biotechnology and laboratory medicine. I am an author and co-author of many books, chapters and articles. I have organized many courses, conferences and workshops for students and laboratory diagnosticians. My professional activity has been awarded many times.

In your professional career, you have served in many leading roles both in your country and internationally. What was your motivation?

I like my job very much and find it a mission. I never treated it as a simple obligation. I am particularly involved in educational initiatives so I cooperate with many national and international bodies especially in the field of immunology. I also am very much involved in social activities in my city which resulted in the mandate of a councilor of the Szczecin city council as a Vice-President of the committee of health and social care. I always do my best to be in touch with my students, patients and colleagues and serve with advice and help in every matter I am able to.

Could you share your way in biochemistry? Why did you choose this field? What do you like about your current job? Do you think that you chose the right job for you? If you have another chance???

I graduated with a degree in biology and started work at the Department of Rheumatology at Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin. I have changed my position from an assistant to the manager. I am convinced it was a good choice. I appreciate the opportunity to cooperate scientifically and professionally with many organizations and medical centers. I am happy that I can pursue my social ambitions and interests. If I had to choose a profession again, it would definitely be medicine.

What would be your advice to young scientists who wish to pursue their career in laboratory medicine?

Laboratory medicine and medical professions in general require continuous learning and improvement of skills. This world is constantly changing and developing. In scientific work, you also need to be prepared for failures and be able to deal with them, be patient and consistent. With the right approach, this work can be really exciting.

Do you have some hobbies? What are the things outside of your work that you are passionate about? How do you like to spend your free time?

I am a very active person both at work and outside of it. I practice sports - cycling, running, boxing and functional training. I like experiencing different things - this year I tried paragliding for the first time. I am also interested in film, literature and music. I often go to concerts and festivals.



Before Rammstein concert this year in Chorzów, Poland



PSLD Congress in Kielce in 2022 - after Professor's Plebani lecture



Cycling in The Netherlands



The Szczecin Branch of PSLD – Me (Chair) and members of the Board



Could you briefly introduce your society? When was it founded, who can become a member, what activities of your organization, what has been done so far, and what future activities, projects, and plans?

The French Society for Clinical Biology (SFBC) is a scientific society serving clinical biology (Association recognized as being of public utility according to the French Law). The SFBC welcomes and represents biologists

from the private and public sectors, French and French-speaking. The SFBC was founded in 1952. It is localized in the heart of Paris, in the Pharmacy Faculty, near the Luxembourg Gardens and the Sorbonne University. Our secretary, Cathal Dolan, the sole employee of our society, is working in a very nice small house nested in the botanical garden of the faculty that hosted us now for more than a decade. The SFBC's expertise covers the study of preanalytical factors, the evaluation of analytical performance and measurement techniques, and quality assurance for validating and evaluating medical biology examinations in conjunction with clinicians. We also work on implementing new biological analyses (such as various omics, for instance) and regulations in clinical practice and deciphering the evolutions of biology. The SFBC exhibits tools for communicating and disseminating scientific and technical information: Scientific events, multi-disciplinary news, and training meetings, a scientific journal that is referenced in Pubmed and with an IF of 0.5, "The Annals of Clinical Biology" ou Annales de Biologie Clinique, and a website informing biologists of progress in the work of society and the public on clinical biology. Its members are clinical biology professionals (private, public, academic, researcher, industrial), a Board of Directors, a professional governance structure, an Office responsible for implementing the decisions taken by the Board of Directors, a Scientific Committee that leads the scientific policy, a Commission for Communication, an International Relations Commission, which coordinates the actions of the SFBC abroad within principally the IFCC, the EFLM, and the FIFCBML. We also participate in the continuous formation of biologists. We organize some boards, either limited or enlarged, every month (except during the summer vacations). We recently set up a group of Young Scientists to encourage them to participate in our actions and promote our efforts internationally. Every year, we organize one or two scientific committees to follow the activities, discuss results with the working groups' pilots, and determine the scientific policy. We also have at least one administration council meeting and annual general assembly. We participate in numerous activities: organization or co-organization of scientific meetings (such as the JFBM, the Biologistes Médicaux, les Journées Internationales de Biologie...), expertise for the health ministry, and interactions with the national professional committee (currently headed by a member of the SFBC). The working groups also write some recommendations. We have also developed numerous active collaborations with leading actors in biology in France, such as the CNBH, SNBH, SIDIV, and some biologists' and resident unions, and outside France.



The frogs' national society (in the botanic garden near our office)



Our environment : the SFBC is located in Paris



Our environment :the Paris subway

What are your suggestions for better education? Is the current instruction in your country fit for the purpose? Do you have a core curriculum for the training of medical biochemistry professionals?

Professional education should be intense initially, associating theoretical and practical (including clinical) practices. In France, clinical biologists are either medical doctors or pharmacists. Both follow specialized training for four years, comprising theoretical and clinical formations and evaluations, and including, in the initial phase, three different disciplines: biochemistry and molecular biology, hematology, and microbiology. Then, the residents can either specialize in one domain or stay polyvalent until the end of their four years of training. After a final validation, they are graduates and can work as clinical biologists in France. Professionals are submitted to the obligation of permanent formation, with at least one validated formation every three years. They will soon be introduced to a regular certification after examining a set of proofs, including participating in (or organizing) national or international scientific events and formations. In today's practice, clinical biologists are trained according to the COFRAC exigences (following the 15189 ISO norm), with formatted training, evaluations, and regular verifications of their competencies.

In what direction do you see the laboratory medicine heading? What do you think about the laboratory specialist position to increase their visibility within the healthcare system? What challenges do you and your colleagues face?

A broad range of competencies is required for a competent biologist, including hard and soft skills. The biologists have to fully integrate the significant place of the mastery of the preanalytical step. They must also integrate the growing importance of the post-analytical phase and the clinical-biological continuous dialog, including the necessity of traceability and constant performances. With a dynamic field and the emergence of new biomarkers, we think they have to integrate the importance of the evidence-based use of biomarkers. Finally, they must anticipate and prepare for the emerging role of IA and the urgent need for more sustainable and green professional practices. Laboratory specialists have to take their place and exert their expertise from the analytical knowledge to the clinical interpretation and communication of the results, including all quality insurance aspects. We face an increasing concentration of structures, an increase in automation, quality, and traceability requirements, and a decrease in the number of professionals. The main challenges are integrating all scientific improvements in a changing and innovative landscape and participating rationally and wisely in implementing numeric and artificial intelligence.

Do you think medical biochemistry professionals are ready for emerging technologies such as Digitalization, Laboratory Diagnostic Algorithms, AI, ML, Integrative Diagnostics, Big Data? Do you believe in the Partnership model for efficient integration and adoption of emerging technologies and innovations?

Clinical biologists are perhaps more able than other jobs to their practices' numeric evolution (or revolution). Indeed, they have been confronted with a constantly increasing automation and numeration of data, and our profession is highly turned to innovation. In my opinion, they are perhaps less prepared for integrative diagnostics since numerous current organizations favor a silo-based organization, and now, we've to think more in a hub structure. The biologist has to be aware of how IA can change the work organization, the fields in which it can lead to better efficiency and the files that should be reserved for human intelligence. They have to know the strengths and limits. They must be aware and wise, finding a middle position, excluding extremes, either rejecting the technological advance or embracing it quickly without measuring the risks and limitations. Moreover, as other healthcare professionals, they must never forget the necessity of the patient's informed and consented use of the IA, to be conscious of possible failures, and to still organize some degraded situations by conserving all required competencies. Moreover, as the numeric use increases, they must be well-trained in cyber security principles and good practices.

Do your society members participate and/or contribute enough to EFLM activities? Do they know the advantages of an EFLM Academy membership, for example, the unique educational resource "Syllabus course", free attendance to the recently held 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference, its sessions were recorded and are available for one year?

For many years, many national society members have participated in or even led some EFLM activities, notably working groups. For instance, two newly created groups are headed by two French members of the SFBC's board. We try to identify in your network the best candidates. We also participated regularly and for many years in selecting abstracts for Euromedlab. For a few months, we sent all our members the call for EFLM working groups to enlarge the possibility of finding appropriate candidates. In a few months, we've developed our communication on social networks in French to ensure the most considerable diffusion of the calls. We also diffuse some EFLM news and resources, such as the green Lab kit. The EFLM Academy membership is accessible freely to all the adherents of society.

What do you think about the ongoing and recent EFLM activities/initiatives? Do you have suggestions to increase communication and cooperation with EFLM? What do you like and dislike about EFLM

I think that EFLM has increased its visibility with the EFLM academy. Perhaps to increase the participation of our members at the international level, we could translate more documents into French to facilitate their understanding. We recently discovered the Syllabus initiative, and we really hope some members of our society could be integrated in this European initiative.

Some Personal questions...

Please introduce yourself with a few sentences.

I'm a pharmacist who was initially trained in the west of France (Brittany) before arriving in Paris to be a resident in clinical Biology for four years. I then got a grant named "Médaille des Hopitaux". I then performed my Ph.D. training in cell Biology. Now, I'm a Full professor in Biochemistry and Molecular



The Paris Cité Pharmacy Faculty in which the SFBC is located

Biology at Paris Cité University, the medical university, one of the largest universities for healthcare practitioners in France, classified 68 in the Shanghai ranking. I'm also a medical practitioner heading two biochemistry university laboratories in the North of Paris in the Bichat and Beaujon hospitals. These laboratories are part of the "Assistance Publique -Hopitaux de Paris." I'm also practicing more fundamental research as a member of the U1149

Inserm, part of the Center on Inflammation. I have been a national society member since the end of the last century. I was granted in 2008 as the laureate of the international price of the SFBC.

I've headed a working group of SFBC on pharmacogenetic and companion tests from 2010 to 2013. Then I integrated the administration of the society, being for a short time a treasurer, then joining quickly the scientific committee I co-directed for eight years, first with Pr S Lehmann, then with Dr Collin-Chavagnac. After being an invited member for one year, I was elected in November 2023 to be the president for a three-year term. I have been a corresponding member of the IFCC working group on Molecular Diagnosis for around 10 years.

In your professional career, you have served in many leading roles both in your country and internationally. What was your motivation?

I believe in the constant innovation. We need in our medical practice to integrate the newest and best biomarkers and organizations. I also think that shared experiences and knowledge could improve our day-to-day routines and that sharing our initiatives and observations helps us. Finally, I always think to the patient: this unknown patient today needs to be taken in charge, is vulnerable and possibly ill, and needs our help. Moreover, this anonymous patient would be a relative, a friend, and ourselves tomorrow. We must do our best to help our colleagues, teach the youngest, ensure the best quality and precision, talk with physicians, and publish our results.

Could you share your way in biochemistry? Why did you choose this field? What do you like about your current job? Do you think that you chose the right job for you? If you have another chance???

Initially, I was interested in microbiology and virology. Indeed, I did pursue additional courses in these specific disciplines. Then, I became increasingly interested in working in a public university hospital, and I found a Ph.D. in a very cross-disciplinary theme: prion diseases. These diseases are the crossroads of microbiology and biochemistry, but the Ph.D. was proposed in biochemistry due to the protein structure of the prion. Consequently, I began to specialize in Biochemistry and cell biology, and I continued in this direction after finishing my Ph.D. because I found it incredibly fascinating. I am also interested in molecular biology and genetics. Moreover, I discovered that biochemistry was at the crossroads of many disciplines and that it opened an extensive range of specialization. My choice was the right choice.



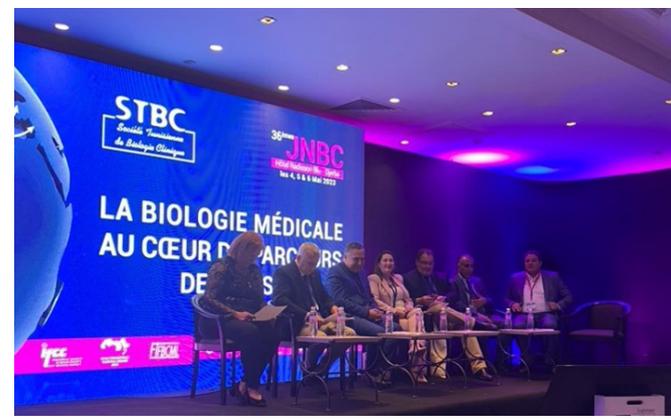
Our last dinner at La Coupole in 2022, when we also celebrate the birthday of Pr JL Beaudoux, dean of the Paris Pharmacy faculty



Our dynamic young Scientist, Marie Lenski in Roma 2023



A scientific event in 2019 dedicated to Numeric and Health



A round table in Djerba meeting in 2023

What would be your advice to young scientists who wish to pursue their career in laboratory medicine?

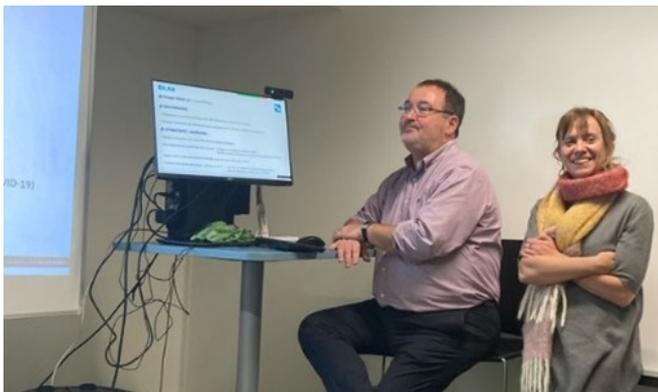
Be curious, Be brave. Embrace the novelty with pleasure and enthusiasm. Be flexible and patient, open-minded. Don't think you can work and progress alone. Participate to the improvement of our job. And take pleasure!

Do you have some hobbies? What are the things outside of your work that you are passionate about? How do you like to spend your free time?

Apart from my rich professional life, I'm also the mother of two adorable boys. I try to spend most of my spare time with them, spending time notably for cultural and ludic events. I've had the chance to live in Paris, a town that offers many exciting things to do with children and a lovely place to have long walks. As a typical French, I love to eat and sometimes cook and to discover new tastes in food and wines. Finally, travel has been one of my great pleasures for years: I love discovering new countries and cultures worldwide.



At the last Euromedlab conference that celebrated Anne Vassault, we proposed to be granted as a long-time actor of quality assurance from our national society.



Our general assembly in 2022



Presenting a conference in the last Moroccan scientific events in 2023



Could you briefly introduce your society? When was it founded, who can become a member, activities of your society, what has been done so far and future activities, projects, plans?

The Kosovo Association of Clinical Chemistry (KACC) was established in 2000, as a voluntary and non-profit professional association that represents specialists of clinical chemistry in Kosovo. KACC members are Clinical

Biochemistry specialists licensed by the Ministry of Health in the Republic of Kosovo. The President of the Association is elected by the members of KACC and has a 4-year mandate (only clinical biochemistry specialists, who have fulfilled the obligations of membership in KACC, have the right to vote). Our activities are: the promotion of clinical chemistry as a professional scientific discipline; the exchange of scientific knowledge; supporting the development and promotion of scientific research in relevant fields; raising the quality of communication between scientists in Kosovo and abroad; raising awareness of clinical biochemistry, laboratory medicine and the advancement of young researchers; cooperation with similar foreign associations and cooperation with international organizations.

What are your suggestions for better education? Is the current education in your country fit for the purpose? Do you have a core curriculum for the training of medical biochemistry professionals?

Improving education in Kosovo, as in any region, is a complex and multifaceted challenge that requires a comprehensive approach involving various stakeholders. Collaborate with international experts in clinical biochemistry to design a comprehensive and up-to-date curriculum that covers essential topics and practical skills. Integrate case studies and real-world examples to make the curriculum more engaging and relevant. Also ensure that laboratories are well-equipped with advanced instruments and facilities for hands-on training and research. In Kosovo for the specialist study program it is used curriculum that it is harmonized with EFLM syllabus course for postgraduate education in laboratory medicine.

By implementing these suggestions, with help and support of the EFLM, educational institutions will create a dynamic and engaging education program that prepares students for success in their careers and contributes to advancements in the field.

In what direction do you see the laboratory medicine heading? What do you think for the position of the laboratory specialist to increase their visibility within the healthcare system? What challenges do you and your colleagues face?

Laboratory medicine in Kosovo is to continue its path toward modernization and the adoption of advanced technologies. This includes the integration of automated equipment, robotics, and improved laboratory information systems to enhance efficiency and accuracy in testing. Efforts to ensure the quality and reliability of laboratory testing are likely to continue, with a focus on accreditation and adherence to international standards to maintain the integrity of test results. Clinical biochemistry specialists in Kosovo, like their counterparts in various healthcare fields, encounter several challenges in their

work. Limited budget is the biggest challenge that we are facing but also high workloads potentially affect the accuracy and efficiency of testing. In Kosovo ensuring the quality and accuracy of laboratory tests is also a continuous challenge. It's important to note that the landscape of laboratory medicine is continually evolving. Laboratory professionals should stay engaged with their professional organizations, participate in discussions, and adapt to emerging trends and challenges to maintain their relevance within the healthcare system.

Do you think medical biochemistry professionals are ready for the emerging technologies such as Digitalization, Laboratory Diagnostic Algorithms, AI, ML, Integrative Diagnostics, Big Data? Do you believe in Partnership model for efficient integration and adoption of emerging technologies and innovations?

Many professionals in medical biochemistry are aware of the potential benefits of emerging technologies but might not have had extensive training or experience in their implementation. Preparing professionals to work with these technologies often required additional training and education. Some educational programs were adapted to include courses on data analysis, informatics, and AI in healthcare. The readiness of healthcare institutions and laboratories to adopt emerging technologies depended on their existing infrastructure and resources. Some private institutions had more advanced systems in place, while the public sector is in the early stages of digitalization. Partnership models for the efficient integration and adoption of emerging technologies and innovations have several advantages: Collaborative partnerships between healthcare institutions, technology companies, academic institutions, and government agencies can help share expertise and resources, collaborative partnerships can foster research and development efforts to tailor technologies to specific healthcare needs. This kind of partnership allows access to expertise that might not be available in-house, especially when dealing with complex technologies like AI and big data analytics. Partnering with technology providers can facilitate scalability and ensure that emerging technologies can meet the demands of a larger healthcare system. In conclusion, the readiness of medical biochemistry professionals for emerging technologies varied, and the education and training are essential for their successful adoption. Partnership models were indeed seen as valuable for efficiently integrating and adopting these technologies, as they allowed for collaboration, resource sharing, and access to specialized expertise. However, the extent and success of partnerships also depended on factors such as local healthcare infrastructure, regulatory environments, and the specific goals of the institutions involved.



Do you think your society members participate and/or contribute enough to EFLM activities? Do they know the advantages to be EFLM Academy membership, for example, the unique educational resource "Syllabus course", free attendance to the recently held 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference, its sessions were recorded and are available for one year?

Our members regularly participate and contribute to EFLM activities (congresses, seminars, workshops, working groups, etc.) In many cases, our members are faced with various difficulties, starting from budgetary restrictions to technical difficulties such as travel visas, which often are obstacles for participation in various activities. Since the launch of the EFLM academy, the number of participants from Kosovo has increased interest for being part of the EFLM academy, therefore we as KACC since last year EFLM academy block enrollment has been offered to our members so that they have easier access to the organized activities such as 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference. Collaboration with the EFLM is valuable and important to us, Academy membership provides several benefits, including access to educational resources such as the "Syllabus course." Being an EFLM Academy member enables us to have access to a range of educational materials and resources related to clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. The "Syllabus course" is one such resource. Membership in the EFLM Academy contributes to the professional development of laboratory medicine specialists by providing access to up-to-date information, research, and training opportunities. Being part of the EFLM Academy allows us to network with peers, researchers, and experts in the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. This can facilitate collaborations, knowledge exchange, and career advancement, newsletters or updates about the latest news, research findings, and advancements in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. Membership in a respected organization like EFLM can enhance professional recognition and credibility in the field, EFLM represents the interests of its members in matters related to clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine at the European level.

What do you think about the ongoing and recent EFLM activities/initiatives? Do you have suggestions to increase communication and cooperation with EFLM? What you like and dislike about EFLM

EFLM has changed over the years since we were accepted as a full member in the race to support developing countries like Kosovo through various programs. Access to the e-learning academy, EFLM lab exchange, "Vic Blaton" scholarship program, the possibility of organizing special courses in our country are very valuable opportunities for our members and the opportunity for their professional and scientific advancement.

Our suggestions to Increase Communication and Cooperation with EFLM:

Is to actively participate in EFLM events, conferences, and educational programs to stay informed and contribute to the community. Also, to explore opportunities for collaboration



with EFLM on research projects, guideline development, or educational initiatives that align with your expertise and interests. I would use this opportunity extend an invitation to EFLM committee to pay a visit to Prishtina and to Kosovo Association of Clinical Chemistry, it would be a great opportunity to discuss about the current situation and future perspectives related to our area of expertise in Kosovo. This can provide a platform to directly contribute to our initiatives for improving laboratory practice in our country. Another of our initiatives would be to host the annual meeting organized by EFLM. Your consideration of our enthusiasm to host the annual meeting in Kosovo and to support an event that promises a multitude of advantages for both our local community and international participants would be greatly valued.

Likes and Dislikes:

Likes:

- EFLM's commitment to quality assurance and standardization in laboratory medicine.
- Emphasis on education and training for laboratory professionals.
- The role in promoting research and disseminating scientific knowledge.
- Efforts to foster collaboration and networking within the European laboratory medicine community.

Dislikes:

- I do not have personal preferences or opinions. Any criticisms or dislikes related to EFLM would be subjective and specific to individual experiences or perspectives.

Overall, EFLM serves a crucial role in advancing the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in Europe.

Some Personal questions...

Please introduce yourself with a few sentences.

I am a Biochemistry Specialist with over 11 years of experience in clinical diagnostics and a proven track record of ensuring accuracy and compliance in laboratory operations. Holding a Medical faculty degree, specialized in Clinical Biochemistry, as a Clinical Laboratory Specialist, I am committed to delivering reliable results using up to date techniques and technologies while staying at the forefront of industry advancements. My expertise includes proficiency in clinical diagnostics, quality, and laboratory management. as director of Biochemistry department within UCCK and for second term a director and active member of the Kosovo Association of Clinical Chemistry, I am passionate about advancing patient care through cutting-edge laboratory practices. I am excited to bring my skills and knowledge to contribute to EFLM team's success.



In your professional career, you have served in many leading roles both in your country and internationally. What was your motivation?

I've always been deeply passionate about professionalism, and that passion has been the driving force behind my career choices. Whether serving in leading roles in different positions, my motivation has been rooted in the belief that continued learning, improvement and innovation can contribute to meaningful change. Throughout my career, I've found that taking on leadership roles has not only allowed me to pursue my passion but has also provided me with incredible opportunities for personal and professional growth. Each role has challenged me to stretch my capabilities, learn from diverse perspectives, and find innovative solutions to complex problems. I also believe that effective leadership involves collaboration and teamwork, and I thrive in environments where I can work alongside talented individuals from various backgrounds. Lastly, I'm a firm believer in the importance of continuous learning, and each leadership role has been a valuable learning experience that has enriched my skill set and knowledge. In summary, my motivation to serve in leading roles both domestically and internationally is driven by my passion, my commitment to making a positive impact, and my dedication to lifelong learning. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to continuing to contribute to meaningful change in the field.

Could you share your way in biochemistry? Why did you choose this field? What do you like about your current job? Do you think that you chose the right job for you? If you have another chance??? Could you share your way in biochemistry?

Certainly. My journey in biochemistry began during my undergraduate studies when I took an introductory course in the subject. I was immediately captivated by the intricate biochemical processes that underlie life, from the molecular interactions to the broader biological implications. This fascination led me to pursue a specialization in Biochemistry. During my academic years, I had the privilege of participating in various projects, which deepened my understanding and passion for the field. These academic experiences provided me with a strong foundation and ignited my desire to contribute to the field through research and practical applications.

Why did you choose this field?

Biochemistry allows me to unravel the mysteries of life at a molecular level, understand how cells function, and explore the biochemical basis of diseases. This field offers the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to scientific knowledge and to society as a whole. Furthermore, the dynamic and ever-evolving nature of biochemistry keeps me engaged and motivated to continue learning and discovering new insights.

What do you like about your current job?

In my current role as Director of Department of Clinical Biochemistry within the University and Clinical Center of Kosova as well as Director of Biochemistry Association in Kosova, I appreciate several aspects of my work. Firstly, I have the privilege of conducting cutting-edge research in a field that I am deeply passionate about. I enjoy collaborating with a team of talented colleagues, each bringing their unique perspectives and expertise to our projects. Additionally, I find great satisfaction in mentoring and guiding junior experts, helping them grow in their careers and make their own contributions to the field. Lastly, my job provides opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and the translation of research findings into real-world applications, which is incredibly rewarding.

Do you think that you chose the right job for you?

Absolutely. Choosing biochemistry as my field of study and pursuing my current job aligns perfectly with my interests,



skills, and long-term career goals. I feel fortunate to be in a profession that not only fulfills my intellectual curiosity but also allows me to make a meaningful impact on scientific knowledge and, ultimately, on the well-being of individuals and society. Every day, I wake up excited about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in my role.

If you had another chance???

If I had another chance to choose a career path, I can't imagine straying far from biochemistry. However, I might explore related fields such as molecular biology or biotechnology, as they also align with my interests and expertise. Nevertheless, I firmly believe that my chosen career in biochemistry has been the right fit for me, and I would make the same choice again without hesitation. It has provided me with a fulfilling and intellectually stimulating journey that I cherish.

What would be your advice to young scientists who wish to pursue their career in laboratory medicine?

I would advise young scientists interested in laboratory medicine to focus on education, hands-on experience, continuous learning, ethical conduct, and effective communication. I would also emphasize the importance of mentorship, networking, and the significant impact they can have on patient care. I would encourage them to pursue their passion with dedication and enthusiasm, as their contributions to this field can be both professionally fulfilling and socially impactful.

Do you have some hobbies? What are the things outside of your work that you are passionate about? How do you like to spend your free time?

Yes, I have a few hobbies and interests that I'm passionate about outside of work. These activities not only help me relax and recharge but also contribute to my personal growth. One of my main hobbies is traveling and photography. I love capturing moments and exploring different perspectives through the lens of a camera, especially during outdoor trips or when I travel. I'm also an avid reader. I find solace in getting lost in a good book, and it's a great way to broaden my horizons and gain new perspectives. I enjoy everything from classic literature to contemporary fiction. In summary, my hobbies, which include photography, reading, walking, and volunteering, allow me to unwind, stay physically active, and engage with the community. These activities bring balance to my life and contribute to my personal growth and well-being. They also reinforce skills like discipline and time management, which are valuable in both my personal and professional life.



NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

Four simple actions to be more sustainable and green in your laboratory!

Reported by Tomris Ozben,
Chair of the EFLM Task Force "Green & Sustainable Laboratories"

In line with the goal of the EFLM Task Force "Green & Sustainable Laboratories", I have the pleasure to start a new column in our newsletter: Four simple actions to be more sustainable and green in your laboratory!

In each issue of the newsletter, we will select 4 actions from each section of the checklist prepared by the EFLM TF-GSL members (Chemicals, Energy, Waste and Water) to start implementing the daily routine in your laboratories and getting familiar with the checklist.

The below actions are accompanied by a graphical leaflet that you can download and post in the notice board of your laboratory to be shared with your colleagues (in this case, please remember to use recycled paper 😊). [Click here to download the PDF](#)

The selected actions of this issue are:

Section "Hazardous Chemicals Management"

ACTION: Are waste containers labelled?

Section "Energy Management"

ACTION: Do you use natural light in the laboratory as much as possible?

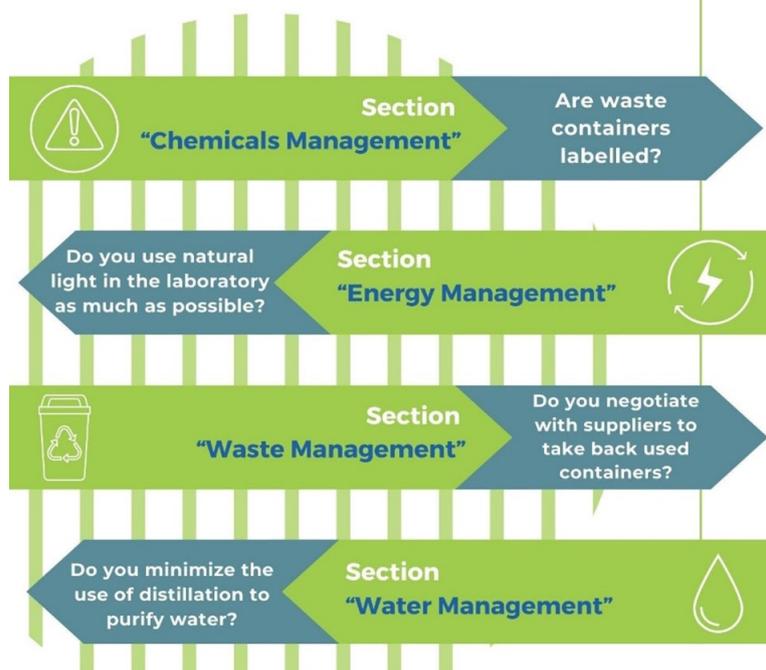
Section "Waste Management"

ACTION: Do you negotiate with suppliers to take back used containers?

Section "Water Management"

ACTION: Do you minimize the use of distillation to purify water?

FOUR SIMPLE ACTIONS TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE AND GREEN IN YOUR LABORATORY!



NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

November 5th 2023 is the date to celebrate the 2nd EuLabDay!

Reported by Tara Rolic, Chair of the EFLM Task Group European Laboratory Day

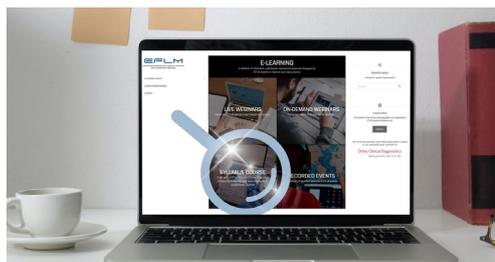


The EFLM Task Group European Laboratory Day is proudly presenting the second edition of the EuLabDay! Initiative started in 2022 aims to celebrate and promote the role of laboratory medicine throughout Europe. Colleagues interested in participating, organizing activities to showcase laboratory work, explain the profession, and engage with the general public is a fantastic way to contribute. You are welcome to organize workshops, lecturers, events and open laboratory tours which can offer valuable insights into the world of laboratory medicine. Interested but not know how to join? Find some ideas [here](#) or create your own, share on social media pictures, videos, reports of your event. Do not forget to send it too at eflm@eflm.eu

Let's celebrate the European Laboratory Day on November 5th together!

Focus on the EFLM Syllabus Course

Reported by Evgenija Homsak, Chair of the EFLM Profession Committee



In my role of Chair of the EFLM Profession Committee, I wish to newly bring to your attention what we consider is a major EFLM educational resource: The EFLM Syllabus Course.

The EFLM Syllabus course was designed and produced in 2021 by the members of the EFLM Task Group "Syllabus Course" (TG-ESC), with the aim to support the harmonization of postgraduate education of specialists in laboratory medicine in Europe.

The course provides a series of highly educational lectures covering practical advices and useful tools for how to master a certain skill.

Scope of the course corresponds to the [European Syllabus](#), the key document for EFLM which represents the basis for the Common Training Framework for non-medical Specialists in Laboratory Medicine under EU Directive 2013/55/EU (The recognition of Professional Qualifications).

This course is designed for postgraduate students, residents, young trainees and PhD students, and everyone else interested in laboratory medicine

The EFLM Syllabus course consists of more than 40 modules and over 300 lectures which cover all four main sections of the EFLM Syllabus:

- Section A: the generic knowledge, skills and competencies that need to be acquired during training.
- Section B: the specialist knowledge within each discipline.
- Section C: the skills and competencies required to carry out research, development and audit.
- Section D: leadership skills and competencies.

the voice of Key Leaders...

I feel incredibly privileged for having the opportunity to work with such an amazing team and I believe we have done an amazing job together. There has been an enormous level of commitment and enthusiasm within the group, and it was an incredible motivating force for me to move the project forward.

Ana-Maria Šimundić
EFLM TG-ESC chair
EFLM President (2020-2021)

I am enthusiastic about the new EFLM educational initiative. Syllabus course is more than a course, it is an immense educational resource that encompasses the entire curriculum of laboratory medicine.

Mario Plebani
TG-ESC member and Module coordinator
Editor in Chief, Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM)
Full Professor of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology
First Dean of the Medical School, University of Padova
Chief, Department of Integrated Diagnostics
University Hospital - Padova, Italy

An essential platform of knowledge for teaching, increasing proficiency and learning up-to-date information in laboratory medicine prepared by the outstanding, renowned experts in their fields.

Tomris Ozben
EFLM President (2022-2023)
Dept. of Clinical Biochemistry
Faculty of Medicine, Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey

... about the EFLM Syllabus Course

An authoritative and incredibly comprehensive course with a rich curriculum, and a truly valuable resource for both practicing laboratory professionals as well as young scientists and trainees from across Europe and around the world.

Khosrow Adeli
President, ESC
Senior Scientist & Professor of Clinical Biochemistry
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

The world's first comprehensive online syllabus course in laboratory medicine - Congratulations!

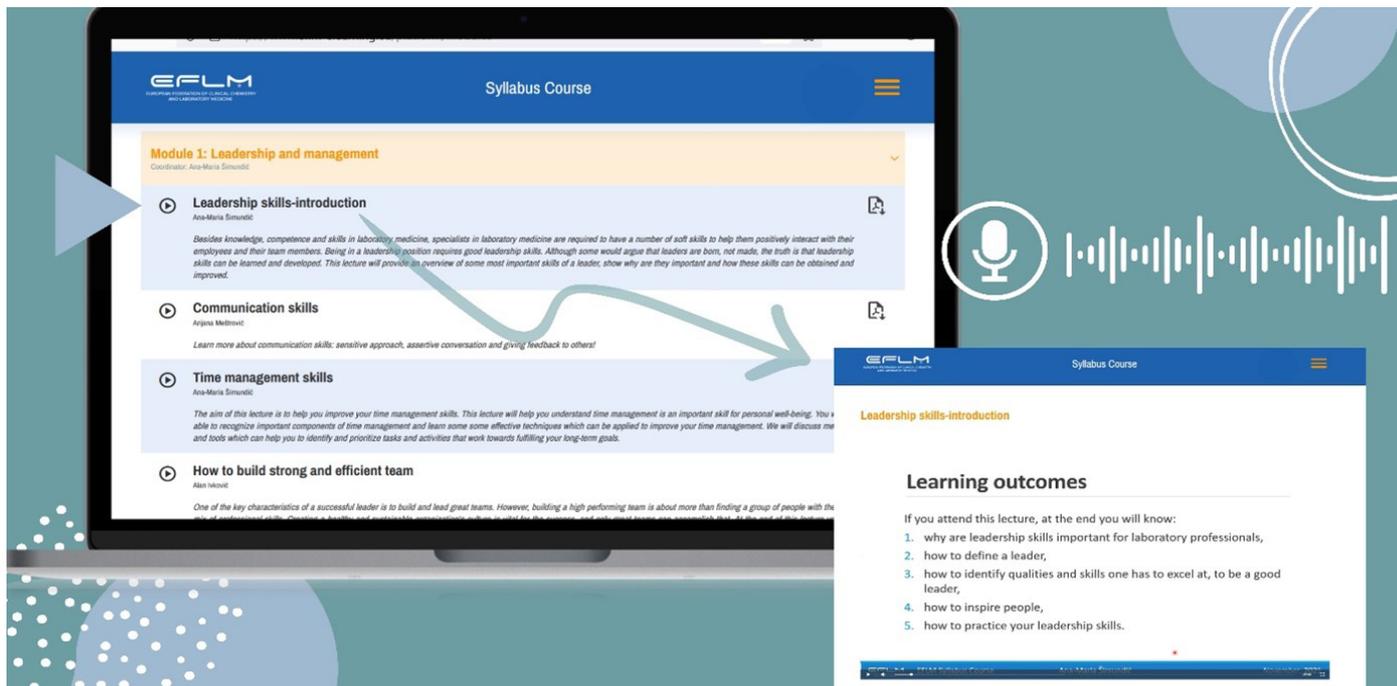
Sverre Sandberg
Past President of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)
Director The Norwegian Organisation for Quality Improvement of Laboratory Examinations (NOKLUS)
President of the European Porphyria Network Association (EPNET)
Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway

Below the list of topics included in the course:

- Module 1: Leadership and management
- Module 2: Biostatistics and data analysis
- Module 3: Quality management
- Module 4: Analytical and clinical evaluation of laboratory methods
- Module 5: Preanalytical phase
- Module 6: Post-analytical phase
- Module 7: Biological variation
- Module 8: Analytical principles and techniques
- Module 9: POCT testing
- Module 10: Big-data and artificial intelligence
- Module 11: Enzymes
- Module 12: Tumour markers
- Module 13: Diabetes mellitus
- Module 14: Lipids and CVD risk markers
- Module 15: Electrolytes and blood gases
- Module 16: Nutrition
- Module 17: Vitamins and trace elements
- Module 18: Iron, haem metabolism and porphyrins
- Module 19: Body fluids
- Module 20: Molecular diagnostics
- Module 21: Therapeutic drug monitoring and pharmacogenomics
- Module 22: Cardiac markers
- Module 23: Renal function and urinalysis
- Module 24: Liver and bile
- Module 25: Inflammation
- Module 26: Immune system
- Module 27: Gastrointestinal system biochemistry
- Module 28: Bone and mineral metabolism
- Module 29: Hormones
- Module 30: Reproductive endocrinology and pregnancy
- Module 31: Paediatric biochemistry and inherited metabolic disorders
- Module 32: Biochemical markers of neurological disorders
- Module 33: Organ transplantation

Module 34: Introduction to haematology
 Module 35: Automation and complimentary tests in haematology
 Module 36: Non-malignant haematological disorders
 Module 37: Malignant haematological disorders
 Module 38: Haemostasis and fibrinolysis

Module 39: General microbiology
 Module 40: Bacteriology
 Module 41: Parasitology
 Module 42: Mycology
 Module 43: Virology



The EFLM Syllabus Course is an exclusive opportunity reserved to EFLM Academy Members. Join the EFLM Academy: the annual fee is only Eur 15.00! To enroll for 2024 via your National Society, remember to contact them in advance this October to be sure to be included in the list of Members to register to the EFLM Academy which your National Society will submit to the EFLM Office within December 10. [Click here to know more about the EFLM Academy](#)

The point of view of a user about the EFLM Syllabus Course....

"As a Scientist, I found this course helpful in systematizing my knowledge and getting up-to-date content from all the possible laboratory medicine areas. Different perspectives in lectures helped me better understand complex problems and how to use some tests and assumptions in my daily work properly. I am very grateful for the efforts that EFLM and lectures put into this course. Great initiative."
 – Alex Tikhonov Member EFLM Officer

"I have used the EFLM Syllabus Course many times when I needed to learn some details about a particular area of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. For me, the most important Modules were: Leadership and management, Biostatistics and data analysis, Quality management, Pre- and post-analytical phase, and Lipids and CVD risk markers. I think that the EFLM Syllabus Course is a very comprehensive educational platform that allows EFLM academy members to expand their education in specific parts of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. The best thing about the EFLM Syllabus Course for me is the fact that the lecturers are experts from the lab and the knowledge transferred is therefore very practical and relevant." - Aleš Kvasnička, Faculty of medicine, Palacký University Olomouc, Czechia, University Hospital Olomouc, Czechia



"The Syllabus Course has greatly influenced my personal growth. I was pleasantly surprised and inspired by its content from the moment I discovered it. I have already completed 13 out of the 43 available modules and have no plans to stop. One of the standout advantages of the Syllabus Course is its commitment to providing up-to-date information. This ensures that I am always learning the latest advancements in laboratory medicine. Additionally, the flexibility to access the course at any time has been invaluable, allowing me to fit my studies into my busy schedule. I appreciate the variety of topics covered in the course, as it has allowed me to explore different areas of laboratory medicine. The modules are well-structured, with informative presentations in PDF format that are available. There is room for improvement in terms of the technical features of the platform. It would be beneficial to have the ability to change playback speed for the videos and play videos directly from the Preview section of each module page. These additions would enhance the overall user experience and make navigating through the course even easier. Despite these minor technical limitations, the modules I have completed so far have refreshed my theoretical knowledge and provided me with new insights into current information. While some lectures may be challenging to comprehend due to complex or monotonous delivery of material and overloaded text in slides, the quality and relevance of the information provided outweigh these minor issues. I am excited for the future expansion of the Syllabus Course and eagerly await new modules. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue learning and developing my skills in laboratory medicine" - Kseniia Fomichenko, Medical Laboratory Scientist, Almazov Medical Research Centre, St. Petersburg, Russia

EFLMLabX report

Reported by Karina-Alexandra Cojocaru, Romania



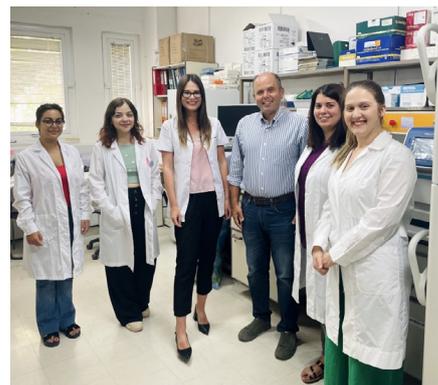
From my spontaneous decision to apply on the EFLM LabX platform to the rapid and positive response from the EFLM Committee, this journey has been a series of wonderful surprises. The knowledge and skills gained during this internship have significantly enhanced my abilities as a laboratory medicine resident and researcher. This experience has been nothing short of life-changing, and I am immensely grateful to the

EFLM Committee for the financial support and the chance to enrich my knowledge and skills in the Laboratory Medicine field. I also want to express my deepest gratitude to Professor Tsatsanis for his exceptional guidance and support throughout the internship. He generously shared his expertise and insights, and under his mentorship, I had the privilege to explore for one month the laboratory at the University of Crete, Medical School, and the University Hospital of Heraklion. During the internship, I actively engaged in training sessions at the research laboratory, focusing on analyzing epigenetic regulation of inflammatory responses.

I had the opportunity to observe and actively participate in various laboratory procedures, including PCR, ELISA, DNA and RNA isolation, Western blot, and culture cells. Each experience was both enlightening and enriching. In the Hospital Laboratory, I was trained in biochemical automation and standardization procedures and selected semi-automated analyses such as HbA1c determination, urine microscopic analysis, sperm analysis, and detection of CFTR mutations by capillary electrophoresis. This exposure to real-life diagnostic scenarios provided invaluable insights into the clinical application of laboratory findings and the critical role of laboratory medicine in patient care.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the entire team for their unwavering support and guidance. Special thanks go to Rania, Elina, and Maria, who are Ph.D. students and played a pivotal role in sharing their expertise and introducing me to various laboratory techniques. Their enthusiasm and dedication to teaching were truly commendable, and their mentorship greatly enriched my learning experience.

I am forever grateful to the EFLM Committee, Prof. Tsatsanis, and the entire team from Crete for their generosity, mentorship, and support.



YOUNG SCIENTIST CORNER

Invitation to Join EFLM Task Group Young Scientists

Reported by Miron Sopić, Chair of the EFLM Task Group Young Scientists



The EFLM [Task Group Young Scientists](#) invite each of you to seize this opportunity to actively engage you or encourage young scientists (under the age of 40) within your sphere to join with EFLM TG-YS. Together, we can cultivate the next generation of laboratory medicine professionals and drive innovation in our ever-evolving field. The start of our journey is filling the application form [here](#). EFLM TG-YS stands as a vibrant coordination framework, unifying young scientists, residents, and young professionals in laboratory medicine and related fields, alongside representatives from IVD companies across all EFLM functional units and member countries. Our mission encompasses a wide spectrum of activities designed to nurture the growth and development of emerging talents within our domain.

Allow me to provide a concise overview of the essence of EFLM TG-YS:

Raising Awareness: Our central aim is to amplify the recognition and visibility of young scientists in laboratory medicine.

Building a Network: We are dedicated to creating a robust communication network among young scientists and laboratory professionals throughout Europe.

Facilitating Exchange: Through initiatives like the EFLMLabX exchange program, we facilitate opportunities for professional and scientific exchange among young scientists.

Communication: We are committed to regularly reporting on the activities of EFLM functional units and member countries through various communication channels, including newsletters, social media, and our website.

Creative Contributions: We encourage and celebrate creative contributions that promote EFLM activities, laboratory medicine, and laboratory specialists through innovative methods and formats.

Meetings and Collaboration: We organize both virtual and in-person social, scientific, and educational gatherings to share experiences and foster collaboration among young scientists.

Active Participation: We actively engage in events organized by EFLM, contributing our unique perspective and expertise.

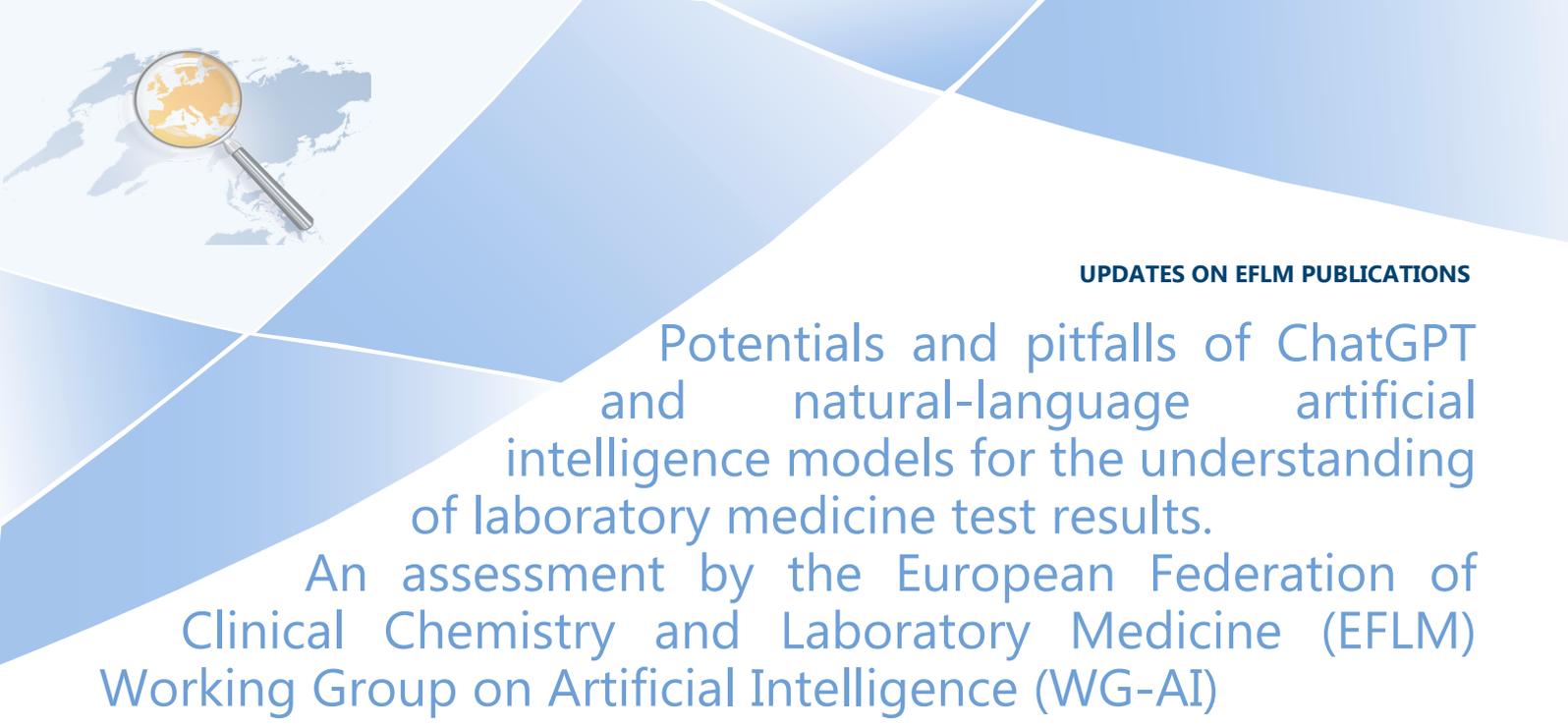
Inspiration: We inspire EFLM functional units by advocating for topics that are pertinent to young scientists, ensuring that our voices are heard and valued.

Awards: We are in the process of establishing the "EFLM Young Laboratory Medicine Professional Award" to recognize extraordinary contributions to the field, spanning scientific publications, education, popularization, and innovation in clinical laboratories.

All these activities are conducted in close partnership with EFLM's mother functional units and home countries, ensuring that our efforts align with the broader objectives of EFLM and are coordinated with the Communication Committee.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We eagerly anticipate your enthusiastic response and participation in this dynamic initiative.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to the advancement of laboratory medicine within the EFLM community.



Potentials and pitfalls of ChatGPT and natural-language artificial intelligence models for the understanding of laboratory medicine test results.

An assessment by the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (WG-AI)

Reported by Tara Rolić, Member of the EFLM Communication Committee
Revised and approved by Andrea Padoan and Janne Cadamuro, Members of the EFLM Working Group on Artificial Intelligence

EFLM
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

Potentials and pitfalls of **ChatGPT** and natural-language **artificial intelligence models** for the understanding of **laboratory medicine** test results

An assessment by the EFLM Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (WG-AI)

Cadamuro J, Cabitza F, Carobene A, Padoan A et al.
Clin Chem Lab Med 2023
<https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2023-0355>

systematic approach of ChatGPT ability to interpret laboratory test results

10 simulated laboratory reports

Chat GPT

optimized prompt

interpretation of lab results according to reference intervals and units

results evaluated independently by WG members according to relevance, correctness, helpfulness and safety

Chat GPT recognized all laboratory tests.

detected laboratory results deviated from reference intervals
interpreted test-by-test & overall laboratory results

superficial and not always correct interpretations judged coherently in some lab reports
lack of meaningful suggestion regarding follow-up diagnostics or further general procedures

Chat GPT is a tool capable of interpreting a laboratory report on a test-by-test basis at best.
Not for the interpretation of an overall diagnostic picture.

INFOGRAPHIC BY TARA ROLIC EFLM CC

Cadamuro J, Cabitza F, Debeljak Z, De Bruyne S, Frans G et al.
Clin Chem Lab Med 2023;
Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2023-0355>

ChatGPT is a Large Language artificial intelligence model (LLM) based on Natural Language Processing (NLP). As such, it has potential applications in healthcare. In this publication the EFLM Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (WG-AI) demonstrates how ChatGPT is interpreting laboratory test results and closes gap with a systematic approach. The WG-AI members generated 10 simulated laboratory reports of common parameters, including reference intervals (RI) and measurement units, which were then passed to ChatGPT for interpretation, using an optimized prompt. The results were subsequently evaluated independently by all WG-AI members with respect to relevance, correctness, helpfulness and safety. ChatGPT recognized all laboratory tests, detected if they deviated from the RI and gave a test-by-test as well as an overall interpretation of the tests. The interpretations were rather superficial, not always correct and only in some cases, judged coherently. The LLM did not make any meaningful suggestion regarding the magnitude of deviations from the RI, the follow-up diagnostics or further procedures in general. In conclusion, ChatGPT in its current form, being not specifically trained on medical data or laboratory data in particular, may only be considered a tool capable of producing generic comments on laboratory reports on a test-by-test basis at best, but not on the interpretation of an overall diagnostic picture. Future generations of similar AI models with medical ground truth training data might surely revolutionize current processes in healthcare, but this implementation is not ready yet.

INTERNATIONAL STUDY ON THE INTERPRETATION OF TEST RESULTS OF THE ACTIVATED PARTIAL THROMBOPLASTIN TIME (APTT)

Bauça JM, et al.; on behalf of the Working Group on the Postanalytical Phase of the EFLM
 Clinica Chimica Acta 2022



I: Analytical

II: Postanalytical



DESIGN



Case 1 (Sample contaminated with unfractionated heparin)



Case 2 (Coagulation factor VIII deficiency)

Two lyophilized citrated plasma samples with respective patient history were distributed to 340 EU laboratories Requested for performing an activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT) and mixing test.

HIGHLIGHTS

Part 1 (269 laboratories):

Completed the measurements and the survey;

- Classification of the result (normal, equivocal, prolonged).
- Categorization of the sample (factor deficiency, presence of inhibitor, anticoagulant, unknown).

Classification

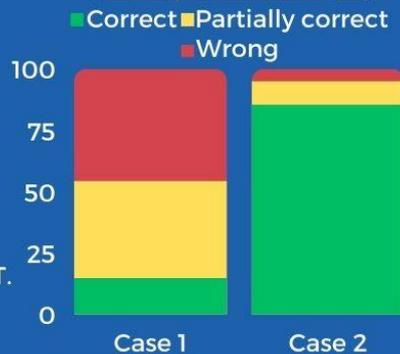
For case 1;

- 100% found a prolonged APTT.
- About 90% a prolonged initial and incubated mixing test result.

For case 2;

- Almost all participants reported a prolonged APTT.
- 78% found a correction to normal in the mixing test.

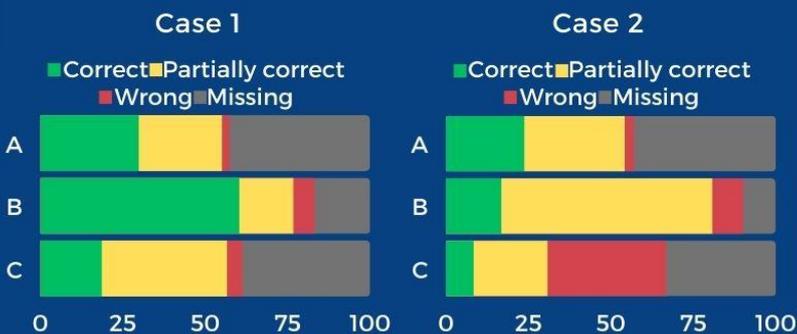
Categorization (%)



Part 2 (214 laboratories):

Interpretative comments (%)

A: Analytical classification B: Laboratory interpretation C: Advice to the physician



INFOGRAPHIC BY KAMIL TAHA UÇAR (EFLM TG-YS)

UPDATES ON EFLM PUBLICATIONS

International Study on the interpretation of test results of the activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT).

Part 1: Analytical results.
 Part 2: Interpretative comments.

Reported by Kamil Taha Uçar,
 Member of the EFLM Task Group – Young Scientists

Bauça JM, Ajzner É, Cadamuro J, Hillarp A, Kristoffersen AH, Meijer P.

An international study on activated partial thromboplastin time prolongation.

Part 1: Analytical results, Part 2: Interpretative comments.

Clin Chim Acta. 2022.

Available from:

Part 1: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cca.2022.08.024>.

Part 2: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cca.2022.08.026>.

The study aimed to evaluate the impact of methodological diversity on APTT mixing test results and interpretative comments in European laboratories. It focused on two cases: one involving heparin contamination and the other factor VIII deficiency, with fictional clinical scenarios provided.

Laboratories received lyophilized plasma samples for APTT measurement and mixing tests. Participants were surveyed about their methods, APTT results, mixing test conditions, classification of results, and sample categorization.

Part 1/Analytical results: For the case of heparin contamination, all participants reported a prolonged APTT, with 91% showing no correction in the mixing test. Only 15% identified an anticoagulant as the cause. In the factor VIII deficiency case, 99% reported a prolonged APTT, with some variation in mixing test results. 86% attributed the prolongation to factor deficiency.

Part 2/Interpretative comments: Analytical classification was mentioned in 57% of interpretative comments. Laboratory interpretation was found in 91% of comments for the heparin case and 83.3% for the factor VIII deficiency case. Advice to physicians was provided in 65.8% of comments for the heparin case and 61.2% for the factor VIII deficiency case. More than 70% of comments were clear and of an adequate length.

In summary, these studies assessed APTT mixing tests and interpretative comments in European laboratories, highlighting the need for improved result classification and guidance on creating clear and accurate interpretative comments to aid physicians in managing coagulation test results.



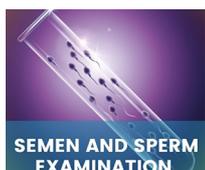
Forthcoming EFLM webinars

Reported by Aleš Kvasnička, Member of the EFLM Communication Committee

Do not miss excellent forthcoming webinars, free and available on demand for EFLM Academy members at the [EFLM e-learning platform](#)!

PAST EFLM EVENTS Past EFLM webinars

Reported by Tara Rolić,
Member of the EFLM Communication

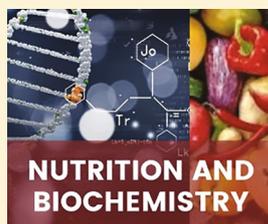


After the summer, EFLM Academy members could participate live in interesting EFLM webinars: digital transformation, semen analysis and in new edition of EFLM lessons in immunochemistry. At 12th September, Merve Sibel Gungoren from Turkey gave an overview of the current state of digital transformation in clinical laboratories and discussed tools and opportunities brought by digital transformation. Webinar was concluded with insight about strategic planning and implementation phases of digital transformation. A week later, Lars Björndahl from Karolinska Institute, Sweden presented semen as body fluid and male reproductive function tests. Great webinar gave an opportunity to discuss requirements for proper development of new laboratory investigations. Moreover, pitfalls and errors related to semen analysis were presented. September was closed with popular lessons in immunochemistry, this lesson directed to hepatic fibrosis and diagnostics challenges of the disease. Massimo Pinzani from United Kingdom and Morten Karsdal from Denmark explained laboratory and clinical aspects of hepatic fibrosis as well as diagnostics and prognostics implication of immunochemistry markers. Advantages and discrepancies in preanalytical, analytical and postanalytical phase of laboratory work were presented. If you have missed one of these webinars you can search and watch them all on demand. Only for EFLM Academy members have this privilege at the [EFLM e-learning platform](#).



Current concepts for early diagnosis of malignant disease

Date: 10th October 2023 at 18:00 CET time



Nutrition and biochemistry

Date: 24th October 2023 at 18:00 CET time



The diagnostic abilities of POC instruments

Date: 7th November 2023 at 18:00 CET time



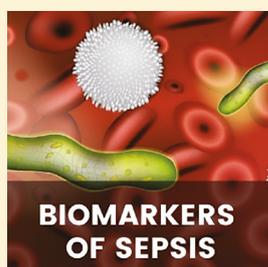
Implementation of sustainable practices in medical laboratories switching Clinical Laboratories to Green Labs

Date: 28th November 2023 at 18:00 CET time



EFLM Lessons in Immunochemistry - Coronary Artery Disease - Predicting the development of coronary artery disease in apparently healthy individuals - the role of Lp (a)

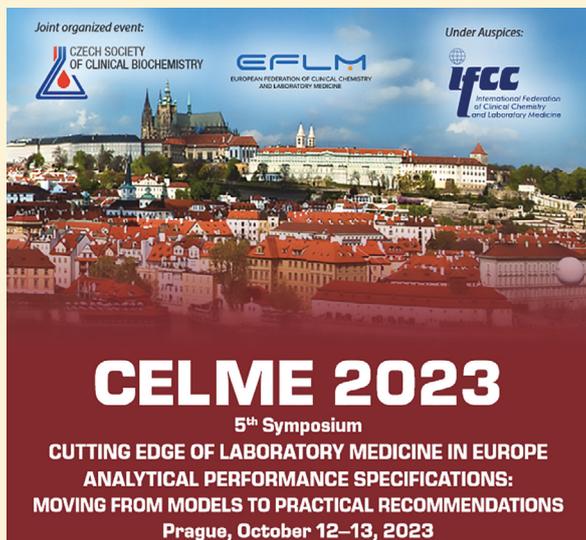
Date: 6th December 2023



Biomarkers of sepsis: procalcitonin and more

Date: 13th December 2023 at 18:00 CET time

UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS



Reported by Katherina Psarra,
Editor of IFCC eNews and Chair eNews WG

Dear colleagues

I hope you have really enjoyed your holidays and came back full of energy.

This summer was difficult for a lot of people worldwide due to the high temperatures, the fires, the extreme climatic phenomena. Nevertheless, the beautiful holidays memories will keep us company during the months at work lying ahead. In the current IFCC eNews issue you will read about sensational events in the IFCC family, that took place during the summer, as they are described by our [President, Prof Khosrow Adeli](#), who invites all of us to a productive IFCC fall. Two descriptions of the experiences with the [IFCC Scientific Exchange Program](#) make us realize the importance of this program. It permits our colleagues to live in a foreign country, to participate in the life of an important lab, to acquire and share knowledge with other colleagues, to bring this knowledge to one's own lab, to make friends and be inspired. Read these reports and get prepared to apply for such a program. You will see that it may change your professional life and it will help your lab as well.

In this issue you can also read about the 8th annual meeting of our colleagues in Sri Lanka, made more interesting and more successful with the participation of Prof Ken Sikaris and Prof Tony Badrick, through the [VLP program](#), another important IFCC program that all IFCC national societies can apply for.

Three scientific groups, winners of the [UNIVANTS Awards](#), are presented in this issue, all of them very interesting. I am sure the NBA COVID-19 bubble will catch your attention. Are we talking about "The NBA"? Well, yes, go ahead, read and find out why an article about NBA finds its place in the IFCC eNews. Don't forget, dear colleagues, that opinions from all over the world are heard in the eNews.

We are looking forward to listening to your particular and beautiful voice. Enjoy the last summer days and the beginning of autumn with the company of IFCC eNews.

Katherina

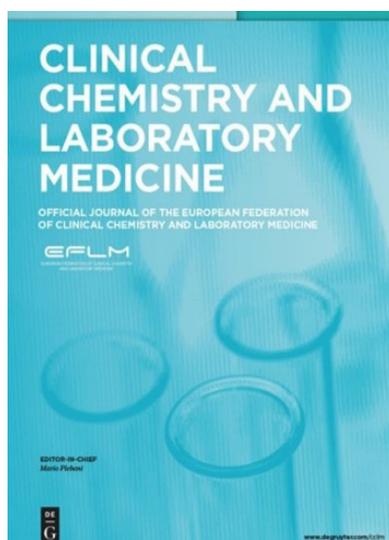
Dr Katherina Psarra, eNews Editor



Register for the Executive Leadership Exchange for Global Healthcare Excellence

The inaugural [Executive Leadership Exchange \(ELX\)](#) forum is a global educational event for all healthcare professionals, including laboratorians. With a goal to maximize value, resolve care gaps and promote wellness, this unique program is a must see. Register today at www.healthcareELX.com. Registered attendees can obtain up to 15.25 ACCENT® continuing education credits.

Visit www.healthcareELX.com for more information and/or to register.



ETD Toolkit for emerging technologies in laboratory medicine

A CCLM article by the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (ETD)

An emerging technology (ET) for laboratory medicine can be defined as an analytical method (including biomarkers) or device (software, applications, and algorithms) that by its stage of development, translation into broad routine clinical practice, or geographical adoption and implementation has the potential to add value to clinical diagnostics.

Considering the laboratory medicine-specific definition, this document examines eight key tools, encompassing clinical, analytical, operational, and financial aspects, used throughout the life cycle of ET implementation.

Whilst there are differences in clinical priorities between different settings, the use of this set of tools will help support the overall quality and sustainability of the emerging technology implementation.

[Click here to read the article](#)

Calendar of EFLM events and events under EFLM auspices

Do not miss the opportunity to have your event listed here.
Apply for EFLM auspices!
For more information visit [here](#) or email eflm@eflm.eu

Fethiye, Muğla (TR), 29 October- 01 November 2023

TBS International Biochemistry Congress / 34th National Biochemistry Congress

[Click here for information](#)

Barcelona (ES) & virtual sessions , 4 October 2023

III Meeting on External Quality Assurance Programs

[Click here for information](#)

7 November 2023

EFLM Webinar: The diagnostic abilities of POC instruments
on-line,

[Click here for information](#)



Stará Lesná (SK), 8-10 October 2023

LABKVALITA 2023

[Click here for information](#)

Brussels (BE) & hybrid meeting, 17 November 2023

Annual Meeting of the RBSLM 2023

[Click here for information](#)

10 October 2023

EFLM Webinar: Current concepts for early diagnosis of malignant disease
on-line,

[Click here for information](#)



Paris (FR), 17-18 November 2023

JIB 2023

[Click here for information](#)

Antibes (FR), 11-13 October 2023

JFBM 2023 - 6èmes Journées Francophones de Biologie Médicale

[Click here for information](#)

28 November 2023

EFLM Webinar: Implementation of sustainable practices in medical laboratories switching Clinical Laboratories to Green Labs
on-line,

[Click here for information](#)



Athens (GR), 12-14 October 2023

21st Panhellenic Congress of Clinical Chemistry - Clinical Biochemistry

[Click here for information](#)

Ljubljana (SI), 30 November 2023

9th International Conference on Quality of Medical Laboratories

[Click here for information](#)

Prague (CZ), 12-13 October 2023

5th Symposium CELME 2023. Analytical Performance Specifications (APS): moving from models to practical recommendations

[Click here for information](#)



6 December 2023

EFLM Lessons in Immunochemistry: Lesson n. 8 - CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE predicting the development in apparently healthy individuals: the role of Lp(a)
on-line,

[Click here for information](#)



Mannheim (DE), 12-13 October 2023

Deutscher Kongress für Laboratoriumsmedizin 2023

[Click here for information](#)

13 December 2023

EFLM Webinar: Biomarkers of sepsis: procalcitonin and more
on-line,

[Click here for information](#)



Dublin (IE), 20-21 October 2023

45th Annual ACBI Conference

[Click here for information](#)

Santorini (GR), 21-24 May 2024

The 10+1 Santorini Conference "Systems medicine and personalised health & therapy"- "The odyssey from hope to practice: Patient first - Keeps Ithaca always in your mind"

[Click here for information](#)

24 October 2023

EFLM Webinar: Nutrition and biochemistry
on-line,

[Click here for information](#)



Saint Malo (FR), 13-14 June 2024

9th International Symposium on Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases

[Click here for information](#)

Copenhagen (DK), 25-27 October 2023

7th ESPT International Congress "Precision Medicine and Personalised Health" (ESPT 2023)

[Click here for information](#)

Brussels (BE), 18-22 May 2025

26th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine 49th Annual Meeting of the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine
EFLM Event

[Click here for information](#)

